

## Alice Springs Desert Leadership Program Overview

Alice Springs Desert Leadership is a program to increase the **leadership capability** of the Alice Springs community, primarily through a program over two years of leadership development for the next generation of leaders.

Alice Springs is a vibrant community and with great potential but which nonetheless has many deep-seated and long-standing issues. These issues have generally resisted the solutions that have been imposed on them over the years, not least because these solutions have come from outside the town and community.

We believe that Alice Springs will only deal with its issues and thrive when the leadership necessary to do so comes from within, from people living in and committed to the potential that can be seen. And we believe that this leadership can be deliberately developed and nurtured, if the community is willing to participate in that work.

It is from this perspective that the Alice Springs Leadership Program has been established and will work into the future. While the primary focus of the program is on the next generation of leaders, the overall design ensures that all in the town can engage with this work that at one level or another.

Much has been written about leadership in recent times and for every great leader there is a theory and a biography to match. Our understanding however is that leadership is primarily an activity – an activity undertaken by a group of people determined to produce different, better outcomes in the future than they have experienced in the past. This understanding underpins the design of this program.

The Alice Springs Desert Leadership Program will not have overnight results. But over time outcomes will become obvious in the lives of the participants and the life of the town.

The Alice Springs Leadership Program is a bold venture, not without risk and long-term in its vision. In an age of immediate solutions and ‘interventions’, this initiative will require deep support and long-term individual commitments to build the right leadership capacity and capability in the next generation of Alice Springs leaders. Many have already committed their support; it is our hope that you will find a way to add your support.

John Huigen

For the Alice Springs Desert Leadership Reference Group being:

Former Administrator of the Northern Territory, **Ted Egan AO**; Alice Springs Immediate Past Mayor **Fran Kilgariff**, CEO Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service and Senior Traditional Owner and a Native Title Holder for Mparntwe-Alice Springs Mrs **Pat Miller AO**, Deputy CEO of MacDonnell Shire and Desert Knowledge Australia Board Director **Des Rogers**, Desert Knowledge Australia CEO **John Huigen**, Interpreter and Bi-Cultural Consultant **Kenny Lechleitner** and His Worship the Mayor **Damien Ryan**